FORFEIT IN ABSENTIA... YOU MEAN HE WENT MIA!?
DON'T TELL ME HE GOT COLD FEET AFTER WATCHING AKIRA'S MATCH!?
WHO IS IT? OH, SOME FELLOW FROM SQUAD ZERO.
WHAT HAPPENED?!
WE DON'T KNOW. WE LOOKED AROUND, BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM...
WELL, WHAT'S DONE IS DONE. YOU ALL FOCUS ON THE NEXT MATCH.
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YUKIMURA HERE!!
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, SEND SOMEONE OVER TO AOI...
AND TELL HER TO BRING THE SQUAD ZERO CAPTAIN HERE!!

LONG TIME NO SEE, HIBIKI-KUN.

WELL, I DID SAY I'D GO THROUGH WITH IT IF YOU MANAGED TO DEFEAT AKIRA.
SO, COME ON.

YOU'LL KEEP IT, RIGHT?
... YOUR WORD.

...OK

MISSION 25

THE MEETING WITH IRUKA

キョロ
キョロ
!!?
TWAH!
PHEW, I MADE IT!!

OH, LAN! DID YOU FIND LEILA AND SOUSEI?
NOPE.
BUT I RAN INTO CAPTAIN SAKURABA UPSTAIRS AND HE TOLD ME!
HE LOST BY FORFEIT, RIGHT!?
THIS IS TURNING INTO A BIG DEAL, ISN'T IT...

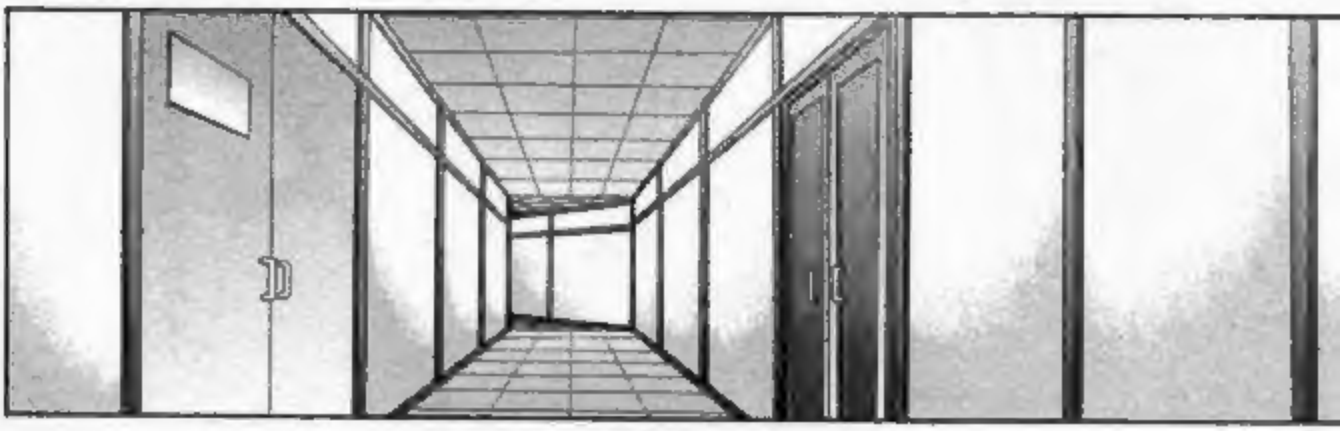
I'M STARTING TO THINK SO TOO.
THEY MUST HAVE GOTTEN INTO TROUBLE.

THAT'S RIGHT! THERE'S NO WAY SOUSEI WOULD ABANDON THE TOURNAMENT FOR NO REASON! SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM!
AND TO LEILA TOO!

!
KAZUMA-SAN.

OH, RIGHT, RIGHT, CAPTAIN SAKURABA ASKED ME TO DETAIN YOU.
WHAT!?
UNTIL THE SQUAD SIX CAPTAIN GETS HERE.
...SO...
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT!!?

.....
PLEASE COME WITH ME.
SAKURABA -SAN IS WAITING FOR US.



CAPTAIN KAZUMA ...
OH, I KNOW. JUST LISTEN, OKAY?
...I'M KINDA IN A RUSH ...
WHAT IS IT?

GOOD, SHE FOUND YOU IN TIME.

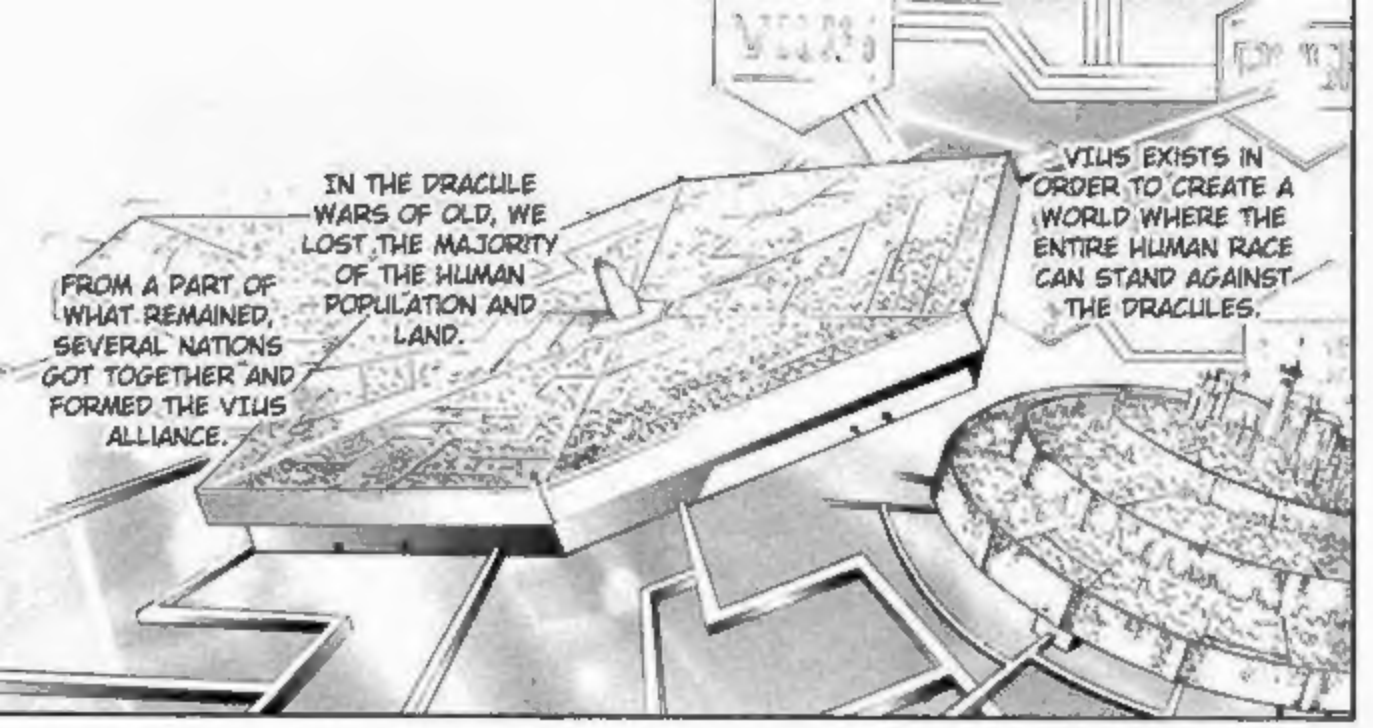
IN THE PAST, THERE WAS ONE OTHER CASE OF A CONTESTANT DISAPPEARING MIDWAY THROUGH THE EXHIBITION TOURNAMENT.
THAT TIME, THE CONTESTANT APPARENTLY FLED AFTER SUCCUMBING TO THE PRESSURE OF FIGHTING A MUCH STRONGER OPPONENT.
THREE?
WE'VE ALREADY ASSIGNED THREE STAFF MEMBERS TO THE SEARCH FOR SQUAD MEMBER YUKIMURA.

LOOK, I FEEL THE SAME WAY, WHICH IS WHY WE'RE ASSEMBLED HERE.
OUR SUPERIORS ARE QUITE INCENSED OVER THIS MATTER, WHAT WITH THE STATE GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE.

BACK THEN, SUN-ICHI WAS STILL PARTICIPATING, TOO.
I KNOW. TWELVE YEARS AGO, RIGHT?
BUT YUKIMURA WOULD NEVER RUN.

BESIDES, YUKIMURA'S ALREADY BEEN FORCED OUT.
THE ONLY REASON WHY WE'RE STILL LOOKING FOR HIM IS BECAUSE OF HIS GOOD CHARACTER. THREE IS PLENTY.
WE'RE ALREADY AT HEIGHTENED SECURITY TODAY, AND WITH THE TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION ON TOP OF USUAL MISSION ASSIGNMENTS, WE'RE SHORT-HANDED.
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED! LEILA HASN'T RETURNED EITHER!
THREE IS NOT ENOUGH !!

YUP.
JUST HAVE THEM CALL THE FORFEIT IN ABSENTIA FOR ME TOO!
LATER!
FORGET IT, THEN. I'LL GO FIND HIM.
YOU DO REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE YOUR OWN MATCH IN ABOUT 15 MINUTES?
YOU REALLY DON'T UNDERS TAND, DO YOU!?
WHAT !?
FINE. I'LL SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU.
HOLD IT.
WE'RE TRYING TO FORM ALLIANCES WITH NEIGHBORING NATIONS.
THE REASON WE INVITED STATE GUESTS TO THE TOURNAMENT THIS YEAR...
ISN'T TO HOLD A BIG FESTIVAL.

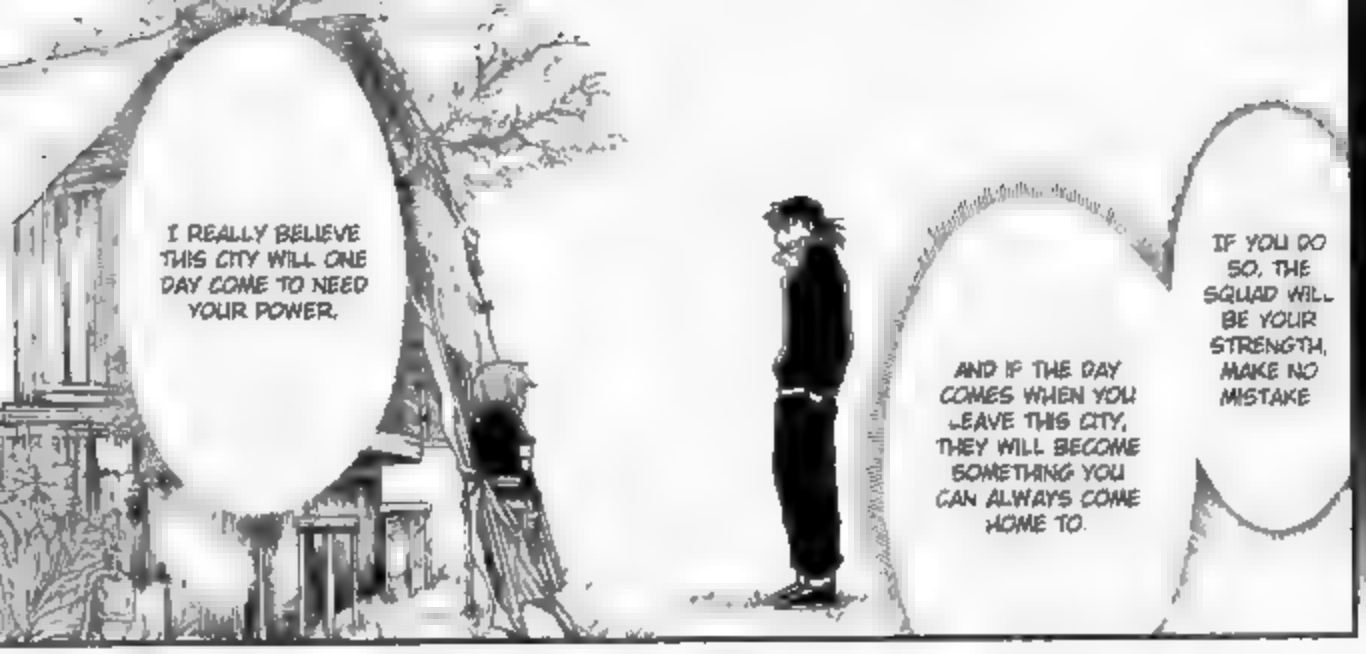

VIUS EXISTS IN ORDER TO CREATE A WORLD WHERE THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE CAN STAND AGAINST THE DRACULES.
IN THE DRACULE WARS OF OLD, WE LOST THE MAJORITY OF THE HUMAN POPULATION AND LAND.
FROM A PART OF WHAT REMAINED, SEVERAL NATIONS GOT TOGETHER AND FORMED THE VIUS ALLIANCE.

AND THIS TOURNAM ENT IS THE FIRST STEP.
THAT'S WHY THE OTHER VIUS BIGWIGS ARE HERE TOO.

OUR JOB IS NOT ONLY TO PROTECT THE VIUS CITIES FROM DRACULES, BUT ALSO TO FORGE ALLIANCES WITH NEIGHBORING NATIONS.
THE ALLIANCE IS CURRENTLY MADE UP OF SIX CITIES, BUT THAT'S ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION.

THUS, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO FURTHER DISGRACE OURSELVES IN FRONT OF STATE GUESTS.
FOR THE WARRIOR'S BATTLE CAPACITY TRANSLATES DIRECTLY INTO A CITY'S ABILITY TO WITHSTAND THE DRACULES.
VIUS'S POWER DOESN'T LIE JUST IN EACH CITY'S DEFENSE SYSTEMS, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY IN THEIR WARRIORS.

YOU TOLD ME I WAS A "DESPISED THING."
...
?
SUN'ICHI... DO YOU REMEMBER THE DAY YOU CONVINCED ME TO RESURRECT SQUAD ZERO?
YOU SAID "AND THAT'S PRECISELY WHY YOU MUSTN'T GO HIDE SOMEWHERE ..."
AND WHEN I REPLIED BACK, "SHUT UP, I KNOW, LEAVE ME ALONE ..."
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH THIS?
RESURRECT SQUAD ZERO, AND THIS TIME, YOU PUT IT TOGETHER FROM SQUARE ONE.
PICK YOUR OWN SQUAD MEMBERS.
DON'T HIDE YOUR POWER, NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS TO YOU.
ISSA, IF YOU WANT TO STAY HERE IN MIKUNI, YOU OUGHT TO BE A SQUAD CAPTAIN.


I REALLY BELIEVE THIS CITY WILL ONE DAY COME TO NEED YOUR POWER.
AND IF THE DAY COMES WHEN YOU LEAVE THIS CITY, THEY WILL BECOME SOMETHING YOU CAN ALWAYS COME HOME TO.
IF YOU DO SO, THE SQUAD WILL BE YOUR STRENGTH. MAKE NO MISTAKE

AND NOW BOTH OF THEM HAVE VANISHED FOR NO REASON.
AND THE SQUAD MEMBERS I CHOSE HAVE BECOME TREASURED COMPANIONS WHO ALWAYS RESCUE ME.
SO JUST AS YOU INSISTED, I BECAME SQUAD ZERO CAPTAIN AGAIN.

ISSA
I'M GOING.
SORRY TO BE SUCH A BOTHER.

DON'T EVEN TRY TO STOP ME!
NOW, IT'S TIME TO RESCUE THEM!
IF IT'S NOTHING, THAT'S GREAT, BUT IF SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO THEM, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF.

WEREN'T YOU LISTENING TO ME AT ALL?!
OH YEAH, WELL ENOUGH TO RECITE IT BACK TO YOU.
NO.

YOU WILL LISTEN TO ME!
MIKUNI'S REPUTATION IS ON THE LINE TODAY!
三國武相
執行部代表
BUT TODAY OF ALL DAYS, YOU CAN'T DO AS YOU PLEASE.
LOOK, I HEAR WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

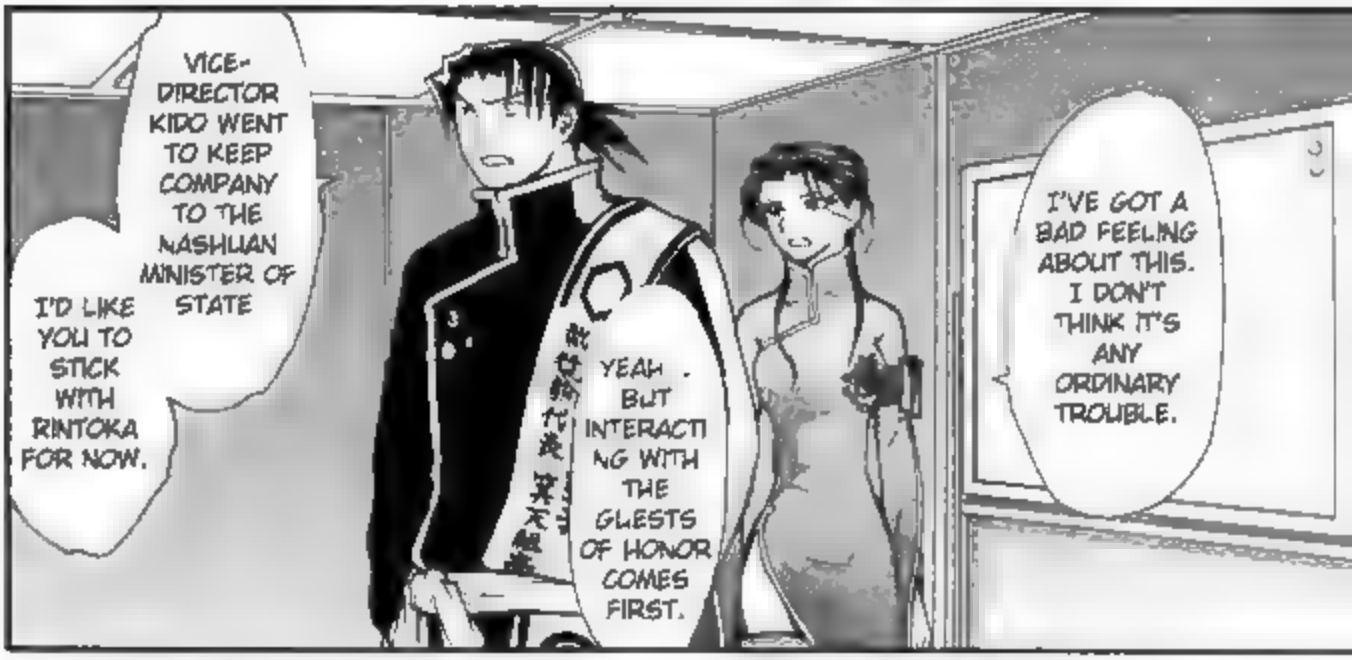
SO AFTER TODAY'S TOURNAMENT WRAPS UP YOU'RE FREE
AND ONE MORE THING. I PUSHED THE VICE-DIRECTOR TO AGREE TO LIFT THE PROHIBITION AGAINST UNVEILING THE EYE.
三國武相亜子
執行部代表
糞天魔志

WE'LL LOOK FOR YUKIMURA AND MIKAMI!
!
SO DON'T YOU DARE LEAVE THE ARENA! NOT UNTIL THE TOURNAMENT'S FINISHED!

I'M WARNING YOU, IF YOU DELIBERATELY LOSE TODAY, I WILL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.
YOU BETTER FIGHT WITH ALL YOU'VE GOT AND STAY IN UNTIL THE END!
GOT IT !?
FINE!
I JUST NEED TO GET THE TOURNAMENT OVER WITH, RIGHT!?
HEY.
THAT'S RIGHT, MISTER.
I JUST NEED TO WIN, RIGHT!?
ALL RIGHT !

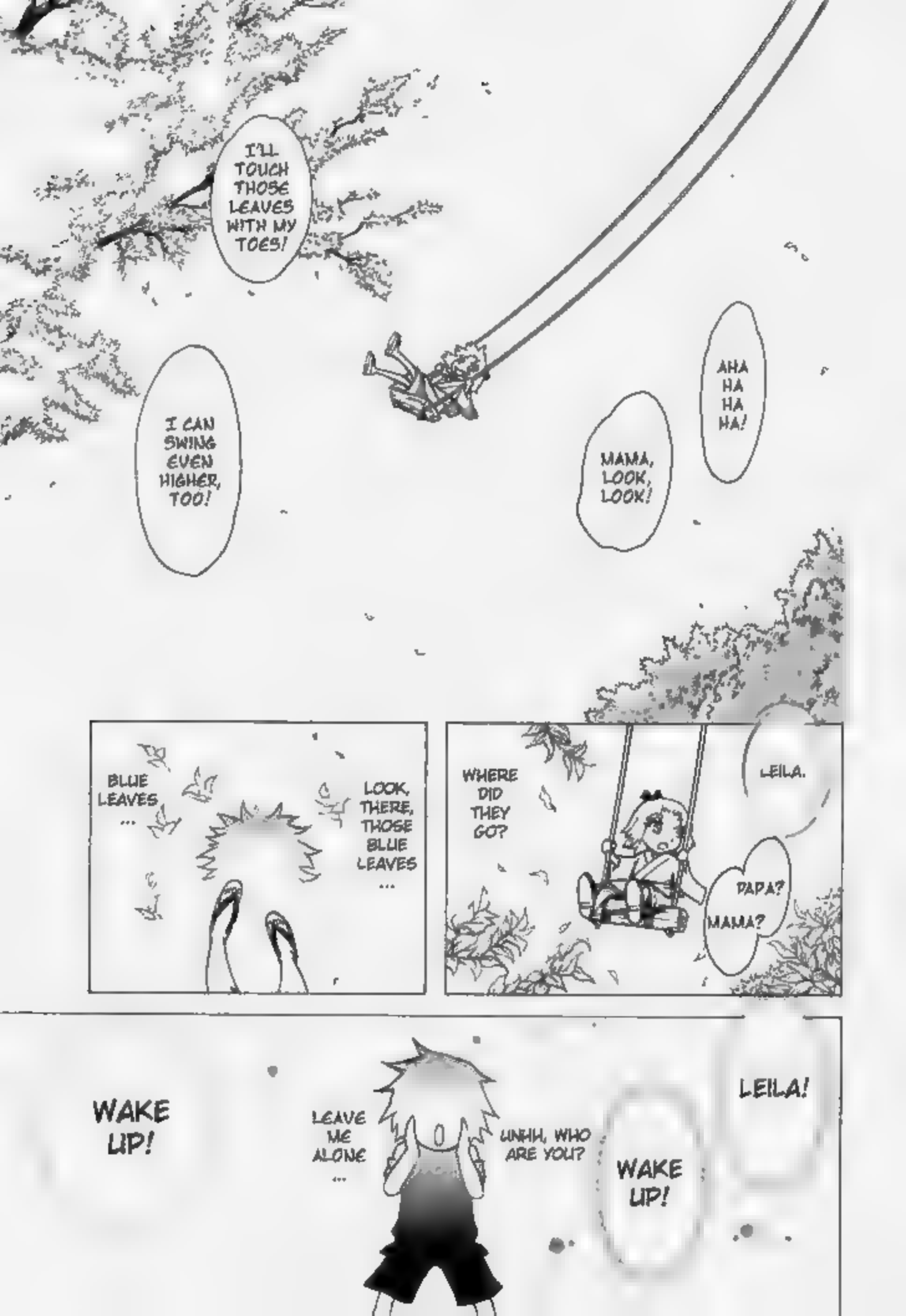
IF PUSH COMES TO SHOVE, I DON'T TRUST THE STAFF ALONG.
HUH? ME!?
YUME, DO ME A FAVOR. KEEP AN EYE ON HIM UNTIL THE END.
ARE YOU SURE...
ドカ

You leave Captain Issa to me!!
HE WAS SPOUTING BLACK STEAM- WANT ME TO TALK TO HIM?
BY THE WAY, THE SQUAD THREE CAPTAIN'S BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
I GUESS... BUT I'D REALLY RATHER NOT...


VICE-DIRECTOR KIDO WENT TO KEEP COMPANY TO THE NASHUAN MINISTER OF STATE
I'D LIKE YOU TO STICK WITH RINTOKA FOR NOW.
YEAH . BUT INTERACTI NG WITH THE GUESTS OF HONOR COMES FIRST.
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS. I DON'T THINK IT'S ANY ORDINARY TROUBLE.

SO I WANT TO CONFIRM WHETHER THEY'RE OKAY OR NOT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
BUT. . ACCORDING TO ISSA, MIKAMI'S ALSO MISSING.
BECAUSE THIS HAS HAPPENED ONCE BEFORE, THEY ARE NOT SHOWING ANY INTEREST IN THE VANISHED CONTESTANT HIMSELF.

WHAT ARE THE ELDER VICE-DIRECTORS SAYING ABOUT THIS?


I'LL TOUCH THOSE LEAVES WITH MY TOES!
I CAN SWING EVEN HIGHER, TOO!
MAMA, LOOK, LOOK!
AHA HA HA HA!
BLUE LEAVES ...
LOOK, THERE, THOSE BLUE LEAVES ...
WHERE DID THEY GO?
LEILA.
PAPA?
MAMA?
WAKE UP!
LEAVE ME ALONE ...
UNHH, WHO ARE YOU?
WAKE UP!
LEILA!

...HUH?
WHERE'S THE SWING ...?
LEAVE
UNH ...
.....

HUH?
A..AND THEN, I THOUGHT I HEARD SOUSEI-SAN'S VOICE...
THAT'S RIGHT, I WAS KNOCKED OUT...
WH... WHE RE AM I

I-IS THIS A SPELL!?
WHY AM I STRIPPED DOWN TO MY UNDERWEAR!? UNH. I CAN'T MOVE.
AIEEE .... WHAT THE...!?
... YOU WOKE.
HE WANTS TO ASK HOW YOU KNOW HIM.
LORD IRIE SAID "WATCH HER", SO I WATCH.
YOU'RE PART OF DARAKU, AREN'T YOU!!
OH! I REMEMBER YOU!

M-MY CLOTHES ...
YOU TOOK THEM?

I'LL GRILL YOU LATER. RESISTANCE IS FUTILE. LORD IRIE'S SPELL IS VERY POWERFUL

PERVERT!!
HOW COULD YOU!
MY CLOTHES! GIVE ME BACK MY CLOTHES!!
I-I WAS UNCONSCI OUS!!!
EEE !!! ...

YEP.

I THINK I'M STILL INSIDE CENTER HALL...
HOW LONG WAS I OUT?

IF YOU'RE ROWDY, I'LL THROW A SPELL NOTE!!
GRR
I .. I NEEDED TO CHECK IF YOU HAD WEAPONS!
YOU'RE DANGE ROUS!

AAH, THE FELLOW LORD IRIE ALSO PUT TO SLEEP, HE'S OVER THERE.
WASN'T THERE SOMEONE ELSE LIKE ME, TOO!?
HA,
WASN'T ...
SOUSEI-SAN!!

BUT THIS SPACE TOO SMALL, SO LORD IRIE COULDN'T GO ALL OUT. THAT FELLOW'S REAL LUCKY.

HE RESISTED LORD IRIE, SO HE WAS PUNISHED.
LORD IRIE VERY SCARY. ONLY FOOLS RESIST HIM.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM!?

HEY!
SO BE GOOD!
YOU AND HIM AREN'T GETTING OUT UNTIL THE JOB'S FINISHED!

HE NEEDS TO BE SEEN BY A DOCTOR.
IS HE BADLY HURT!?

I'M TELLING ON YOU WHEN LORD IRIE COMES!!
OH!!
YOU TRIED TO MAKE ME TALK JUST NOW!!
HUH? WAIT A SEC...
Y-YOU' RE DANGE ROUS!

"JOB"?
..WHAT JOB?

Eh?!?
Oh all right, I'll talk.
I'll tell you how I knew Irie...
My wrists are bound by ropes so.
What to do If I'm going to escape, now's my only chance..

But my neck hurts so you have to come closer.
Ok!! Now talk!!
I will be praised !!
Really?! Yay!!

Waah
Waah!
Tell me how to release these spells!! Or else
Gotcha! I'm not letting go!!
GYAAAAA!!!
You...
Oh!
Barbaric human!
Eee!
Eee!
HELP!!
Savage!
You're a tanuki?!

はっ
カッ
カッ
Don't tell me, he's a Dracula.
あわわ
Oh no... she saw me! She saw my face !!
You don't know! You don't know how Irie-sama can get when he's mad!
H-hey calm down...
Why are you getting so worked up.
I'm..
I'm going to be punished !!
Her ropes are undone too!
She saw my face! What to do!
AAH!
AAAH!

.....
Good. Iruka, I need you to come with me, please
Yes, yes.
Is everything going well?

If he really is a Dracule, he couldn't have gotten past Customs, so how.
And that face
Even though he's an enemy I'm getting all out of whack.
He left
I helped him without thinking

Sousei-san, hang in there!
unh

unh
Sousei-san!

Sousei-san!
Oh! Th-that's right!

I think . I'm okay . .
What about you . . . Leila?
I'm fine! Don't worry about me!
Leila is that you ?
Yes! Souseï-san, are you injured?
And how badly !?
A spell, huh . .
That man.. he was a High Master.
Leila... can you move? I can't seem to.
Good.
Leila, where are we?
I think we're inside Center Hall.
It must be somewhere inside.
Oh!
But both my hands are free!
Uh.. please don't look this way.
I'm also bound by spells.
?

Continuous spells like these... are maintained by "spell stamps" which should be visible somewhere.
But I'm wrapped in spells!
Leila, you've got to find some way to get free.
Good ... That's good ...
Good - now you need... to sever it... with some sharp-edged object.
Oh! Found it!
I can see some writing, floating!
Spell stamp ?
I'll try!
I only have my nails
Sharp-edged object
but

Gah. nails aren't enough
I wish I had a knife or dagger.

Ah!
Leila... if you focus, you can transform your body into a weapon.
Master this, and you'll even be able to fight swords bare-handed.
FOCUS!

He came back
Where's that lady?
パタン
Creak

Iruka, Lord Irie has other business to take care of. You go interrogate that girl.
Lord me is also not free right now
What about the man with the tat too on his face?
That's why I'm the only guard
Every-body's busy

Just try it. I dare you.
You mean you want to inter-rogate me?
I... want to ask you things.

Eh?
you pretended nothing happened Was that for me?
You ... earlier ...

That they would try to kill me if they saw my face
had heard all humans were savages.
?
Because I would get punished ...?
Er, well. Maybe.
Yes, you have !!
I never did that!
You tied me up and wounded Sousei-san!!
That's because Dracules are the enemies of all humans!
It's you Dracules who are attacking people!
Work!!
The plan to attack Mikuni !!
You were interfering with Irie-sama's work!
What work?!

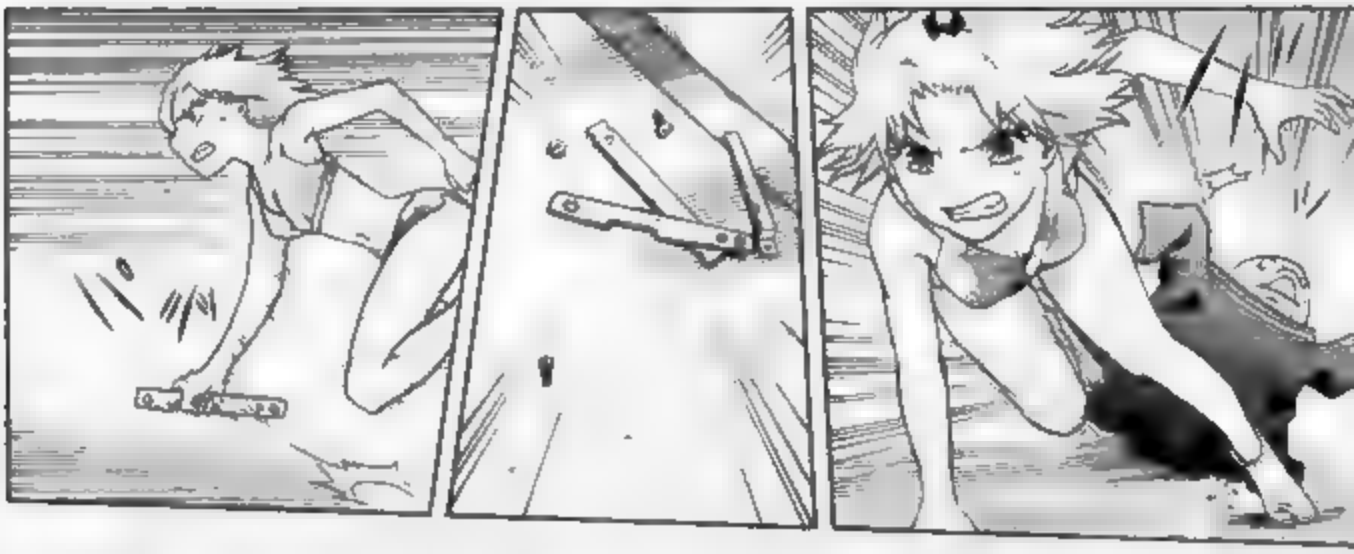
You can't do that with just a few people!
What are you talking about !?
はっ
ギク

If you don't tell me, I'm not talking either!!
And what do you mean by "attack" !?
You tell me how you know Irie-sama.
I-I'm not saying anything else. No questions.
ズカ

I was just told to destroy the Hexagonal Shield!
I-I don't know !!

Aa--
!!
ﾀｯ
ｽﾞｷﾎﾞ…

What do you mean, "destroy the shield" !?
Waaac--
Zo-----
Uwaaa!

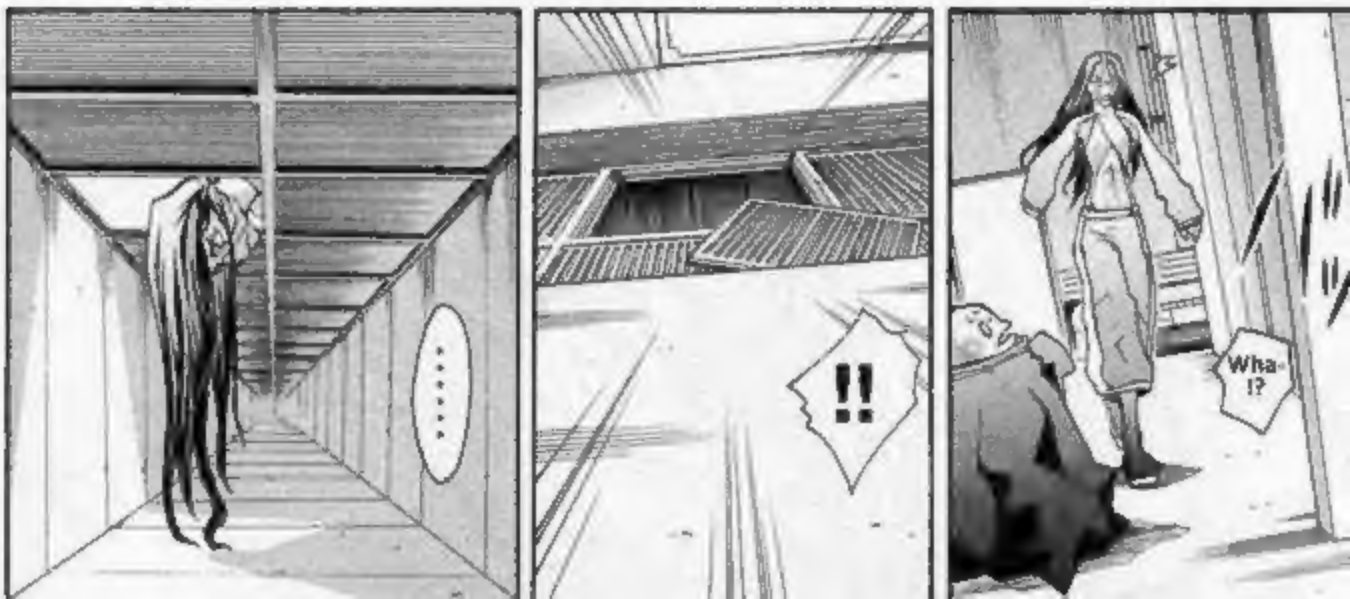


!
Sousei-san!
Up there!

Sousei-
san!

I'd heard his voice just once before, although I didn't know his face until now!
I'll tell you how I know Irie!!

……


……
!!
Wha-!?

I left you in charge . . .
and this happened!?
She told me, though. . . . . .
Eh?
She said she knew Irie-sama's voice.
We shall now commence Match Five!

Translator
Jayrunner

Typesetters
Jayrunner
Reuku

Sorry for all the super-late updates!
ごめんなさい!!!
So sorryyyy!!!